

REMARKS

We are in receipt of the Office Action of October 10, 2003, and the accompanying Amendment and following remarks are made in light thereof.

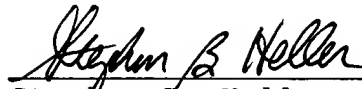
Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Pursuant to the Office Action, claims 1-14 and 17-19 are rejected for obviousness over either Holderness et al. 6,319,391, or Argade 5,032,240, or over Argade in view of Sorensen et al. 4,555,393. This rejection was made "final". Claims 15 and 16, which depend from claims 1 and 9, are indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter.

Without conceding in merits of the examiner's obviousness rejections, and reserving the right to file a continuation application directed to the rejected subject matter, applicant, by the foregoing amendment, has amended independent claims 1 and 9 to include the limitations of claim 15. Claim 16 has been amended to change the dependency from claim 15 to claims 1 or 9. Claims 15 has been canceled. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to be dependent from claims 1 or 9. Consequently, each of the remaining claims 1-14, and 16-19 should be allowable.

Based upon the foregoing, applicant that the pending claims are allowable over the art cited by the examiner, and an early office action allowing the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 8, 2009



Stephen B. Heller
Registration No.: 30,181

COOK, ALEX, MCFARRON, MANZO
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.
200 West Adams Street, Suite 2850
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312)236-8500